

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 DODE-00 /028 W

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R 132100Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5461

INFO GOVAMSAM

UNCLAS SUVA 1163

FROM AMBASSADOR SELDEN TO CHRISTOPHER SQUIRE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, WS

SUBJ: WESTERN SAMOAN REQUEST FOR SURPLUS MILITARY EQUIPMENT

1. GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN SAMOA HAS REQUESTED THAT USG TRANSFER TO IT EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY BEING USED BY THE 84TH ARMY ENGINEERS ON A ROADBUILDING PROJECT IN AMERICAN SAMOA. EQUIPMENT INCLUDES FIVE CATERPILLARS, FOUR DUMP TRUCKS, TWO FRONT END LOADERS, TWO GRADERS AND SMALLER PIECES OF EQUIPMENT.

2. IN OUR DISCUSSIONS, THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO ACQUIRING THIS EQUIPMENT, AND I BELIEVE THAT AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO BE HELPFUL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN SAMOA IF POSSIBLE. LES EDMONDS CONCURS IN THIS, AND WE HAVE INFORMED THE GOVERNOR OF AMERICAN SAMOA, FRANK BARNETT THAT THIS REQUEST IS BEING MADE. GOVERNOR BARNETT INFORMS ME THAT HIS OFFICE HAS ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DOD WITH RESPECT TO THIS EQUIPMENT.

3. IT IS OUT UNDERSTANDING THAT THE EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN DECLARED EXCESS TO THE NEEDS OF THE COMMAND IN HONOLULU ONCE THE PROJECT IN AMERICAN SAMOA IS COMPLETE. GIVEN THE COST OF SHIPPING THE EQUIPMENT TO ANOTHER COMMAND AND THE CONDITION OF THE EQUIPMENT, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IT WILL BE DECLARED SURPLUS WHILE STILL IN PAGO PAGO. GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN SAMOA HAS INDICATED THEY WILL PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO APIA IF EQUIPMENT IS MADE AVAILABLE

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TO THEM.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT INFORM APPROPRIATE OFFICE IN DOD OF THE
INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN SAMOA IN THE EQUIPMENT,
AND EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF TRANSFERRING IT TO THEM.
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